

7 best hikes in Cusco to experience

Peru is probably best known as being the homeland of the Incan Empire and it's thanks to this you'll want to hike. There's so much to see on foot that cars, trains and even donkeys can't take you to. Peru is rich in culture and heritage.

Peru is also home to some rich geography. Not only can you find the world-famous Andes range passing through here, but there are also opportunities for exploring some of the last remaining areas of Amazon rainforest and even deserts.

Ausangate

This moderately challenging hike is widely heralded as Peru's most spectacularly beautiful trek. This, by the way, is where the Rainbow Mountains of Peru are!

What makes this walk so spectacular is the climb around the slopes of this mountain which is revered as sacred.

Here you will find multi-colored rocky ridges with wavy and swirling colored lines, as well as different lakes of glacial origin that you can travel in one day.

It is recommended by the locals that you leave some sort of offering at the top to appease the mountain's guardian spirits, and never, ever carry anything away from the place.

The Inca Trail

This is the most famous trek in Peru, as no visit to the country is complete without visiting Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu, of course, is the most famous Incan ruins in Peru and due to its popularity has limited the number of people that can visit every day so make sure to book your tickets well in advance of hiking

At just over 88-km, the classic trail takes anywhere from four to six days to complete. As you make the challenging climb to get to the city's ruins, it is very easy to see why this isolated place remained undiscovered until the early 20th century!

The Choquequirao Trek

Known as the Cradle of Gold, this is a wonderful alternative hike for those who want to explore Incan Ruins but do not wish to take place in the crowds that abound in Machu Picchu.

Many people choose to go on a guided hike to ensure they take the most efficient and safe route for the 4-day Choquequirao trek.

The Vilcabamba Trek

Popularly known as “The Lost City of the Inca”, this hike in Peru provides you with the opportunity to explore the ruins of the place that once served as the final refuge for the Incas before they finally succumbed to their Spanish invaders.

This is a fairly ‘unexplored’ hike, so you are not likely to encounter much along the way for the company. It’s an important fact to note as while this may come as a blessing to many outdoor adventure-seekers, the isolation can be off-putting to others so decide if it is for you before you venture out.

The Salkantay Trek

If you’re really keen on experiencing the beauty of the Andes but are perhaps not so keen on sharing your experience with lots of other people, then the Salkantay is the perfect hike in Peru for you!

The views are absolutely fantastic, as are the sweeping views of the Andes, as well as passing by the gorgeous Humantay Lake.

The Moray Trek

Moray refers to the ruins of a structure that is shaped like a deep bowl with terraces carved into it. While no one is exactly sure what the purpose of these terraces was, though the fact that they are built at different elevations has led some to believe this was an ancient site for botanical experimentation.

While you are here, be sure to venture another 6km to visit the salt flats – a spot which was a rather valuable resource to the Incans.

Cotahuasi Canyon

Cotahuasi Canyon is arguably the deepest canyon in the entire world – just to set some context, it's more than two times as deep as the Grand Canyon!

You can explore this wonder of nature in lots of different hikes, ranging from a simple, moderately paced day hike, or truly immerse yourself in the area by committing to the four-day path that will lead you to a gorgeous waterfall as well as over suspended bridges that afford an up close and personal view of the Cotahuasi River -making it generally one of the best hikes in Peru for all ranges of abilities.

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